



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

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Division of Oil, Gas & Mining


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July 27, 2004

TO: File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, American Gilsonite, Bonanza Mine, M/047/010, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: March 30, 2004
Time of Inspection: About 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Conditions: Mostly clear, 60's
Participants: Clay Taylor, American Gilsonite; Pete Sokolosky, Vernal BLM; Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

The operator requested that the Division release some of the roads because they are included in the county road system. The purpose of the inspection was to look at these roads to see where they are and what kind of non-mine use they are receiving.

Observations:

I believe we visited every road where American Gilsonite has requested release. These are some comments from my notes. The road numbers are as shown on a map in Attachment A of the reclamation contract.

3. This road runs along a power line and is apparently used by Moon Lake Electric. It is in fairly good condition. There is a gate at the west end of this road, but the gate was not closed or locked.

4 and 5. These roads both lead to the crush plant and had closed and locked gates. They are in fair condition but are self-reclaiming.

6. This is an extension of road 3. It is in similar condition and is also used by Moon Lake Electric. There was an open gate at the east end.

7. This is called the dump road. It is in similar condition to roads 3 and 6 and is maintained by the county.

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8. This is classified as a class D county road. There is normally a locked gate at the east end of this road. It travels along a Gilsonite vein and goes under a truck loading facility. The western two-thirds of this road has apparently self-reclaimed and is no longer evident.

9. Road 9 is apparently classified as a Class B county road and is well maintained.

10 and 11. According to Mr. Taylor, these are not shown on the county road map, but the county considers them to be county roads.

13. There are several oil wells around this well-used road. Although the operator probably uses it, several other entities do as well.

14. This road is apparently not in the county road system, but it is on public land. It does not begin right at the main Asphalt Canyon road.

15. Road 15 dead ends at a well head and is basically self reclaimed.

16. This road is all on fee land and ends at a mine site.

17. Road 17 is on public land to within 300 feet of a mine site.

18. The BLM lists this road as not being maintained , but it is apparently on the county road system..

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Some of the roads we visited are clearly used by several entities, are public roads, and should be released. Others are questionable since they are not considered part of the county road system and do not appear to receive much use from the public.

The Division needs independent verification whether certain roads are claimed by the county. If they are and the county insists that they not be reclaimed, then there may be no purpose in having them bonded. Where a road is on private land and it is not claimed by the county, the Division needs justification from the landowners why the road is needed for non-mining purposes before it can be released.

PBB:jb

cc: Clay Taylor, American Gilsonite
Pete Sokolosky, Vernal BLM

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